

In the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraphs with the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by reading the following detailed description, taken together with the drawings wherein:

[0020] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the fishing reel according to the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 2A is an exploded view of one embodiment of the fishing reel shown in FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 2B is an exploded view of another embodiment of the fishing reel shown in FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 3A is a perspective view of another embodiment of the brake mechanism according to the present invention;

FIG. 3B is a perspective view of the brake mechanism shown in FIG. 2B according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0023] FIG. 4 is a plan view of the static drag adjuster knob according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] FIG. 5A is a perspective view of the knob shown in FIG. 4 according to the present invention;

FIG. 5B is another perspective view of the knob shown in FIG. 4 according to the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 6 is a partial exploded view of the fishing reel and the static drag adjuster knob shown in Fig. 4;

[0026] FIG. 7 is a plan view of the static drag mechanism shown according to one embodiment of the present invention;

[0027] FIG. 8 is a partial perspective view of the lever and linkage according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

[0028] FIG. 9 is a partial exploded view of the reel shown in FIG. 1 according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[00033] In the exemplary embodiment, the brake system 60, ~~+FIGS. 1 and 2A~~, includes a ratchet plate 62 rotatably connected about the frame 12, a friction ring or drag ring 64 rotatably disposed about the perimeter of the ratchet plate 62, and one or more yokes 66 disposed about an outer perimeter of the friction ring 64. The friction ring 64 is preferably made from a composite material with properties similar to that of cork; however, any material known to those skilled in the art may be used. It is important to note that the user may change the properties of the friction ring 64 to alter the drag generated by the brake mechanism. This allows the

user to tailor the fishing reel 10 for a wide variety of target fish species/sizes.

**[00035]** Alternatively, the brake mechanism 60, FIGS. 2B and 3, may include one or more calipers 74 having a wear pad 76 and a rotor or ratchet plate 62. The caliper may include any design known to those skilled in the art, but is preferably rotatably disposed about a pivot 75 as shown in FIG 3A. To generate drag, a force is applied to the calipers 74 which is transferred to the outer surface 78 of the wear pad 76. The outer surface 78 of the wear pad 76 transmits a pressure against the outer surface 72 of the rotor or ratchet plate 62, thus creating the desired drag. In a further embodiment, one or more springs 80 may be disposed between the wear pad 76 and the caliper 74. The size of the springs 80 aid in regulating the amount of drag.